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7 MAR 1961

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chairman, PROCIB  
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 SUBJECT : ICIS Meeting, 7 March 1961  
 REFERENCE : Draft Letter to Chairman, IIC, from Chairman, ICIS,  
 February 28, 1961, Subject: Protection of Nonclassified  
 Strategic Information NSC 5427 (Re ICIS Problem 64)

1. Mr. John J. Bagnall and the undersigned attended today's meeting of ICIS to participate in the discussion of Agenda Item 2, the referenced draft letter. Although it was not clearly stated, it was implied that Mr. Bagnall spoke for the Committee on Exploitation of Foreign Language Publications, that I spoke for the Committee on Procurement of Foreign Publications and that together we spoke for CIA.

2. Mr. Bagnall lent substance to the Committee's somewhat vague opinion that valuable information was being obtained from overt Russian publications. He emphasized the recent increase in volume and improvement in quality of content.

3. I emphasized the centralization of availability of overt publications in the USSR and pointed out that any alternative, indirect means of procurement such as through third countries or by exchange would be slower, more costly, and less sure.

4. The Committee was interested in the possibility of retaliation in the event that the US might curtail certain types of procurement by the Russians in this country. I stated my opinion that consideration of retaliation by the Russians would be automatic and Mr. Bagnall indicated that retaliation would probably occur.

5. The IIC proposal to which the draft under discussion is a reply would assign to OTS Commerce a significant role in controlling the flow of US information to the Russians and in guaranteeing a quid-pro-quo return of Russian information to this country. We were skeptical about the effectiveness such an assignment on both counts. I emphasized that in this country a large body of information cannot be kept from the Russians and, therefore, that the controllable balance of information through open literature is in our favor.

6. Following discussion the committee approved the draft letter, in

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effect retaining the status quo and deciding not to set up new controls  
on the release of nonclassified US publications.

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Chief Reference Librarian

cc: Mr. Bagnall, Chief, FDD

25X1A9a Mr. [REDACTED], Chief, Acquisitions  
Branch, CIA Library

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